



Some Growers Still Waiting to Harvest Corn

Moisture levels remained high in many corn fields, and farmers were considering leaving corn stand to reduce drying costs. Lines at many elevators were long, which also slowed corn harvest. Frozen ground in many northern areas put an end to tillage, but allowed harvesting equipment to get into fields that were previously too wet.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.01 inches in LaCrosse to 0.23 inches in Milwaukee. Average temperatures were 2 to 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 35 to 39 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 23 to 29 degrees. On average, there were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

<http://www.noaa.gov/>
<http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
<http://www.cocorahs.org/>
<http://www.weather.gov/>

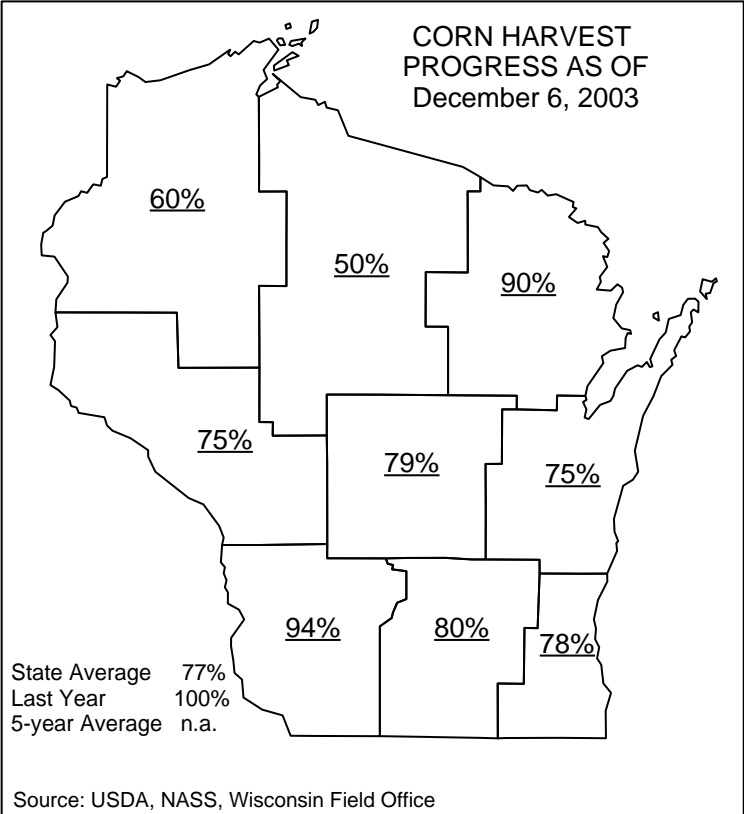
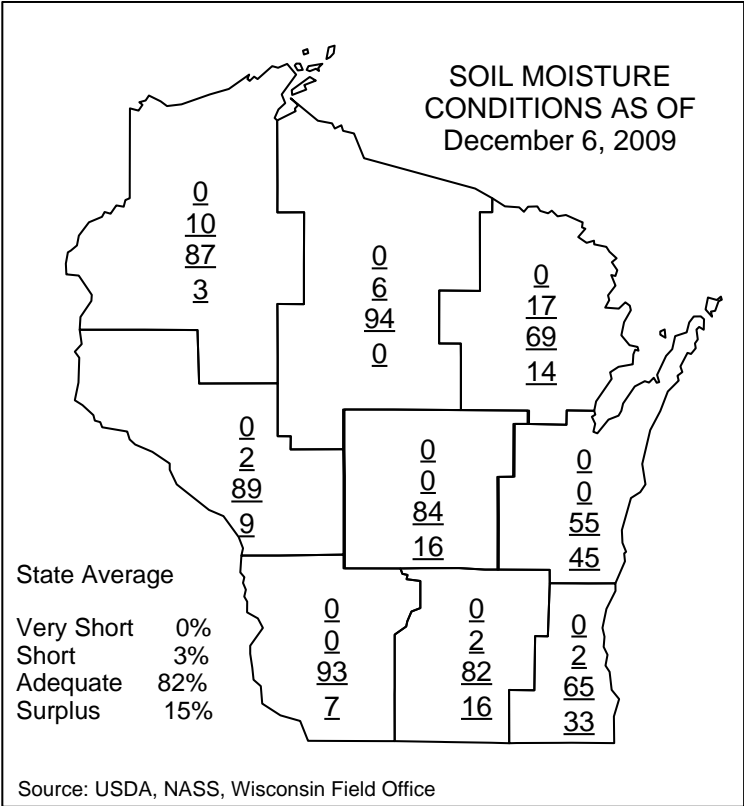
Corn harvested for grain was reported at 77 percent complete, an increase of 10 percentage points from the previous week. While high moisture levels continued to be a problem, many did report higher than expected yields. Growers in Trempealeau county were busy chopping stalks for bedding.

Fall tillage was reported at 66 percent complete, an increase of 8 percentage points from the previous week. Some growers were completing tillage right after harvest. With cooler temperatures arriving, and the ground already frozen in some areas, growers expect tillage to be wrapping up across the state.

Wisconsin Crop Conditions
as of December 06, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	4	30	57	8
Pasture	8	17	57	17	1

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, December 06, 2009

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn harvested for grain	60	50	90	75	79	75	94	80	78	77	100	n.a.
Fall tillage completed	65	83	75	54	79	73	64	65	68	66	n.a.	n.a.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn harvest continues to progress. Many farmers are considering leaving corn stand through winter to reduce drying costs. Cold temperatures will be slowing harvest.

RUSK-G.P.: Corn harvest continues to limp along. Corn moisture in the fields are running in the 30's and low 40's. Much of what is in the fields will stay there for the winter. Tillage was still going on this week but the cold temperatures have now frozen the ground and put a stop to it. Moisture conditions going into the winter are good this year. It should put us in good shape for next spring.

CLARK-A.K.: Corn harvest is going very slow. We are waiting for the corn to dry down but wondering if it will. We will have to decide to harvest the corn soon or leave it out. Frost in the ground will probably end fieldwork.

VILAS-L.K.: There is no corn in this county. Small amount of fieldwork is going on. Lots of firewood is being made.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Corn harvest is progressing, but high grain moistures are still slowing down drying. Field conditions are good and have not hampered any fieldwork. The cold temperatures have started freezing soil, but so far end of year cropping operations continue.

DUNN-J.F.: Soybean harvest is done. Corn harvest is winding down. Yields are better than expected although moisture is a problem. Lots of fall tillage was completed this week as well.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Corn harvest continues. Although there were a good number of days to harvest this week, the time to unload at the local co-op made the harvesting a stop and go item. Some co-ops have been storing grain in parking lots near the bins, and some have refused to take corn that is too wet. The previous week, it seemed as if the corn was picking up moisture rather than drying. Snowfall on Thursday night and Friday slowed harvest. Farmers are still optimistic about getting the corn off, but from the looks at future weather reports, that may not happen this coming week. Some manure hauling has taken place and the manure has been incorporated into the soil. Other farmers have chisel plowed, trying to get a head start on next spring.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Corn dryers are running 24 hours a day and cannot come close to keeping up with high corn

moistures coming in. There is a lot of corn still standing. Soybean harvest is almost finished.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Corn moistures are still above 20 percent. Winter wheat looks good. Even wheat planted in early November looks very good. Fall tillage is moving along at an excellent pace. Lots of loads of hay are being moved around; rumors of big hay shortage.

GRANT-R.R.: If we get the predicted snow this coming week that will be the end of fieldwork for the year. There is much left to do.


IOWA-S.M.: Crops are almost harvested. Some fall tillage is going on.

COLUMBIA-J.B.: Harvest has been steadily progressing for the past couple of weeks. Just need another couple of weeks to be totally finished.

DANE-J.K.: Corn harvest is all done around here, we finished eight days ago, or will be done in the next two days. Very good weather for all work. Field conditions are wet, but work is getting done anyway. Turned out to be a pretty good year anyway especially for yields. Some of the corn plants that were planted early in April yielded up to 246 bushels per acre on a dry basis, with good quality and dry on this test area. Corn stalks are still being made as of Wednesday.

WALWORTH-P.R.: There is still a fair amount of corn in the fields. Quite a bit of winter wheat was planted late if at all because of the late soybean harvest.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Last week with 1.7 inches of rain stopped all fieldwork. Tuesday started corn harvest again but was slow with the wet fields.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on December 6, 2009

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	March 1 to Nov. 28	March 1 to Nov. 28 normal*	Last week	Since Dec. 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	35	23	48	16	29	5	2505	2599	0.02	0.00	n.a.	22.65	-8.80
Green Bay	36	27	46	20	31	4	2313	2456	0.02	0.00	n.a.	25.40	-2.82
La Crosse	37	26	49	17	31	3	2839	2953	0.01	0.01	-0.24	27.05	-4.40
Madison	38	26	50	18	32	3	2643	2926	0.04	0.04	-0.29	35.20	3.49
Milwaukee	39	29	51	19	34	2	2656	n.a.	0.23	0.06	-0.36	33.28	0.33